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The Holidays of Older Single Women

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Title: The Holidays of Older Single Women

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Abstract:

This study is a work in progress with only two conducted interviews at this point. Our aim is to explore older (55+) Norwegian single women's holidays, how they travel, where and when, with whom and why. The study builds and draws on previous feminist research on midlife (35–55 yrs.) single women that demonstrates how various types of holiday spaces empower and constrain them (Heimtun 2007, 2011). By focusing on older women, we seek to expand our understanding of holidays as intimate, embodied, relational and social spaces, underpinned by social and cultural power relations such as gender, singlism and ageism (Pritchard, 2014). At the same time, we will focus on the wellbeing aspects of holidays related to sociability and health. As single is not a uniform category, including always singles, divorcees and widows, in this study we will also explore how previous marital status and current family relations shape the older women's holidays. In particular, the oldest of the women, statistically, would have been married with children. An interesting topic to investigate is thus these women's experiences with intergenerational holidays and how family bonding enables and restrains them.
